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An ACCOUNT of the
E X E C U T I O N
OF THE LATE
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LAURENCE EARL FERRERS,
VISCOUNT TAMWORTH,
AND OF
His LORDSHIP'S Behaviour,
From the Time of his being delivered into the Custody of the
SHERIFFS of *London* and *Middlesex*,
Until the Time of his Execution.
By the AUTHORITY of the SHERIFFS.

L O N D O N :
Sold by M. COOPER in *Pater-noster Row*. M.DCC.LX.
[Price Six-pence.]

AN ACCOUNT OF THE

EXECUTION

OF THE LATE

LAURENCE EARL PERKINS

VISCOUNT TAMBORNE

AND OF

HIS LORDSHIP'S BEHAVIOUR

From the Time of his being delivered into the Hands of the

SHERIFFS of London and Middlesex

Until the Time of his Execution.

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An Account of the
E X E C U T I O N
 OF THE LATE
E A R L F E R R E R S,
 Viscount Tamworth, &c.

ON Friday the second Day of May, 1760, the Sheriffs of LONDON and MIDDLESEX received the following *Writ* under the *Great Seal of Great Britain*, for the Execution of LAURENCE EARL FERRERS, VISCOUNT TAMWORTH, on the Monday following.

“ GEORGE THE SECOND, by the Grace of God of *Great Britain*,
 “ *France and Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, To the
 “ *Sheriffs* of LONDON and *Sheriff* of MIDDLESEX, Greeting. WHEREAS
 “ *Laurence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth*, has been indicted of Felony
 “ and Murder by him done and committed ; which said Indictment hath
 “ been certified before Us in Our present Parliament, and the said *Lau-*
 “ *rence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth* hath been thereupon arraigned,
 “ and upon such Arraignment hath pleaded Not Guilty : And the said
 “ *Laurence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth* hath before Us in Our said
 “ Parliament been tryed, and in due Form of Law convicted thereof:
 “ AND WHEREAS Judgment hath been given in Our said Parliament,

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“ That

“ That the said *Laurence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth* shall be hanged
 “ by the Neck till he is dead, and that his Body be dissected and anato-
 “ mized, the Execution of which Judgment yet remains to be done, WE
 “ require, and by these Presents strictly command you, that upon *Mon-*
 “ *day the fifth Day of May Instant, between the Hours of Nine in the Morn-*
 “ *ing and One in the Afternoon of the same Day*, him the said *Laurence*
 “ *Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth* without the Gate of Our Tower of
 “ LONDON (to you then and there to be delivered, as by another Writ
 “ to the *Lieutenant* of Our Tower of LONDON, or to his Deputy direct-
 “ ed, We have commanded) into your Custody you then and there re-
 “ ceive ; and him in your Custody so being, you forthwith convey to
 “ the accustomed Place of Execution at *Tyburn*, and that you do cause
 “ Execution be done upon the said *Laurence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tam-*
 “ *worth* in your Custody so being, in all things according to the said
 “ Judgment. And this you are by no Means to omit at your Peril.
 “ WITNESS Ourselves at *Westminster* the *second Day of May*, in the *thirty-*
 “ *third Year* of our Reign.

“ *Yorke and Yorke.*”

Upon the Receipt of this Writ, the Sheriffs immediately issued their Orders for making all the necessary Preparations for the Execution, and for the Performance of it in a Manner suitable to his Lordship's Rank.

When the foregoing Precept was delivered to the Sheriffs, they had Notice of the following Writ being sent to the Lieutenant of the Tower of LONDON and his Deputy, for the Delivery of his Lordship into their Custody.

“ GEORGE THE SECOND, by the Grace of God of *Great Britain*,
 “ *France and Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, To
 “ the *Lieutenant* of Our Tower of LONDON or his Deputy, Greeting.
 “ WHEREAS *Laurence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth* hath been indicted
 “ of Felony and Murder by him done and committed, which said Indict-
 “ ment hath been certified before Us in Our present Parliament ; and the
 “ said *Laurence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth* hath been thereupon ar-
 “ raigned, and upon such Arraignment hath pleaded Not Guilty ; and
 “ thereupon the said *Laurence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth*, hath before
 “ Us in Our said Parliament been tryed, and in due Form of Law convicted
 “ thereof, and for the same is adjudged to suffer Death, the Execution of
 “ which Judgment yet remains to be done ; WE require, and by these Pre-

“sents strictly command you, That upon *Monday the fifth Day of May* Instant, between the Hours of Nine in the Morning and One in the Afternoon of the same Day, him the said *Laurence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth*, unto the usual Place without the Gate of the said Tower you bring, and him to the *Sheriffs* of LONDON and MIDDLESEX then and there deliver; which said Sheriffs by another Writ to them directed, We have commanded then and there to receive the said *Laurence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth*, that Execution of the aforesaid Judgment may be done in Manner and Form as to the said *Sheriffs* of LONDON and MIDDLESEX We by Our said other Writ have commanded, and this you are by no Means to omit at your Peril. WITNESS Ourselves at *Westminster* the second Day of May, in the thirty-third Year of our Reign.

“*Yorke and Yorke.*”

In obedience to these Commands, the SHERIFFS, on *Monday the 5th Day of May*, being attended by their Under-sheriffs, and other proper Officers, went to the *Outward-Gate* of the *Tower of LONDON*, and at *Nine o’Clock in the Morning* sent Notice to the Lieutenant, that they were there, ready to receive the Body of *Laurence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth*, pursuant to the King’s Writ in that Behalf.

His Lordship being informed of it, sent a Message to the Sheriffs, requesting their Permission that he might go in his own Landau, which was waiting for him within the Tower, instead of the Mourning-Coach which had been provided by his Friends; which Request being granted, his Lordship, attended by the Reverend Mr. *Humphries* the Chaplain of the Tower, entered into his Landau, drawn by Six Horses, and was conducted in it, by the Officers of the Tower, to the *Outward-Gate*, and there delivered into the Custody of the Sheriffs, upon their giving the following Receipt.

Tower-Hill, 5th May, 1760.

Received then of *Charles Ranisford, Esq; Deputy-Lieutenant of the Tower of London*, the Body of the within-named *Laurence Earl Ferrers, Viscount Tamworth*, delivered to us in obedience of the King’s Writ, of which the within is a true Copy.

GEO. ERRINGTON } *Sheriffs* of LONDON, and
PAUL VAILLANT } *Sheriff* of MIDDLESEX.

Mr.

Mr. Sheriff *Vaillant* accompanied his Lordship in the Landau from the Tower-Gate to the Place of Execution; and, upon his Entrance into it, addressing himself to his Lordship, he told him, "*That it gave him the highest Concern to wait upon him upon so melancholy an Occasion, but that he would do every thing in his Power to render his Situation as easy as possible; and hoped that, whatever he did, his Lordship would impute to the necessary Discharge of his Duty.*"——To which his Lordship answered, "*Sir, I am very much obliged to you,—I take it very kindly that you are pleased to accompany me.*"——His Lordship being dressed in a Suit of light Clothes, embroidered with Silver, said, "*You may perhaps, Sir, think it strange to see me in this Dress, but I have my particular Reasons for it.*"

The Civil and Military Powers attended the Sheriffs from thence to the Place of Execution, and the Procession was as follows:——

First, a very large Body of the Constables for the County of *Middlesex* (the greatest probably that had ever been assembled together upon any Occasion), preceded by one of the High-Constables.

Then a Party of Horse-Grenadiers, and a Party of Foot;

Then Mr. Sheriff *Errington* in his Chariot, accompanied therein by his Under-sheriff Mr. *Jackson*;

Then followed the Landau, escorted by two other Parties of Horse-Grenadiers and Foot;

Then Mr. Sheriff *Vaillant's* Chariot, in which was his Under-sheriff Mr. *Nicols*;

Then a Mourning-Coach and Six, with some of his Lordship's Friends in it;

And, lastly, a Hearse and Six, which was provided for the Conveyance of his Lordship's Corpse from the Place of Execution to Surgeons-Hall.

The Procession was conducted with the utmost Solemnity; but moved so very slow, that it did not reach the Place of Execution till a Quarter before

before Twelve, so that his Lordship was *Two Hours and Three-Quarters* in the Landau; during the whole of which time he appeared to be perfectly easy and composed, and his decent Deportment seemed greatly to affect the Minds of all that beheld him; insomuch that although his Lordship thus passed through many hundred thousand Spectators, yet so respectful was the Behaviour of all towards him, that not the least Affront or Indignity was offered to him by any one; but, on the contrary, many Persons saluted him with their Prayers for his Salvation.

His Lordship asked the Sheriff, "If he had ever seen so great a *Course of People* before;" and upon his answering that he had not; "I suppose," said his Lordship, "it is, because they never saw a LORD hanged before." He said, "that he had wrote to the King to beg that he might suffer where his Ancestor the Earl of ESSEX had suffered; and that he was in the greater Hopes of obtaining that Favor, as he had the Honor of quartering Part of the same Arms, and of being allied to His Majesty;—and that he thought it was hard that he must die at the Place appointed for the Execution of common Felons."——But whatever his Lordship's Thoughts were upon that account, those Considerations will for ever throw an additional Lustre on His Majesty's Impartiality and Justice.

Mr. *Humphries* the Chaplain, who, it seems, had not attended his Lordship till this Morning, took occasion to observe, that, "The World would naturally be very inquisitive concerning the Religion his Lordship professed;" and asked him, "If he chose to say any thing upon that Subject." To which his Lordship answered, "That he did not think himself at all accountable to the World for his Sentiments on Religion; but that he had always believed in and adored ONE GOD, the Maker of all Things;—that whatever his Notions were, he had never propagated them, or endeavoured to gain any Persons over to his Persuasion;—that all COUNTRIES and NATIONS had a Form of Religion by which the People were governed, and that whoever disturbed them in it, he looked upon him as an Enemy to Society;—but that, if he himself was wrong in his way of thinking, he was very sorry for it.—That he very much blamed my Lord BOLINGBROKE, for permitting his SENTIMENTS ON RELIGION to be PUBLISHED to the WORLD.—That the many SECTS and DISPUTES which happen about RELIGION, have almost turned MORALITY out of Doors.—That he could never believe what some SECTARIES teach, that

" FAITH ALONE will save Mankind; so that if a Man, just before he dies, should say only, I BELIEVE, that THAT alone will save him;—Shew me thy Faith."—Here his Lordship stopped;—but by which Quotation he plainly meant, according to * the holy Writer, whose Words they are, that *Faith without Works is a dead Faith*.

Concerning the unfortunate and much to be lamented Mr. Johnson, WHOSE DEATH OCCASIONED THE TROUBLE OF THIS DAY, his Lordship declared, " That he was under particular Circumstances, that he had met with so many Crosses and Vexations he scarce knew what he did;" and most solemnly protested, " THAT HE HAD NOT THE LEAST MALICE TOWARDS HIM."

The Slowness of the Procession made this Journey appear so very tedious to his Lordship, that he often expressed his Desire of being got to the End of it, saying, " that the APPARATUS OF DEATH, and the passing through such Crowds of People, were ten times WORSE THAN DEATH ITSELF;" but upon the Sheriff's taking Notice to his Lordship, that he was glad to see that he supported himself so well, his Lordship replied, " I thank you, Sir, I hope I shall continue so to the last."

When his Lordship had got to that part of Holborn, which is near Drury-Lane, he said, " he was thirsty, and should be glad of a Glass of Wine and Water;"—but upon the Sheriff's remonstrating to him, that a Stop for that Purpose would necessarily draw a greater Crowd about him, which might possibly disturb and incommode him, yet if his Lordship still desired it, it should be done;" he most readily answered,—" that's true, I say, no more, let us by no means stop."

When they approached near the Place of Execution, his Lordship told the Sheriff, " That there was a Person waiting in a Coach near there, for whom he had a very sincere Regard, and of whom he should be glad to take his Leave before he died;" to which the Sheriff answered, that if his Lordship insisted upon it, it should be so; but that he wished his Lordship, for his own Sake, would decline it, lest the Sight of a Person, for whom he had such a Regard, should unman him, and disarm him of the Fortitude he possessed."—To which his Lordship, without the least Hesitation, replied, " Sir, if you think I am wrong I submit;" and upon the

the Sheriff's telling his Lordship, that if he had any thing to deliver to that Person, or any one else, he would faithfully do it; his Lordship thereupon delivered to the Sheriff a Pocket-Book, in which was a Bank-Note, and a Ring, and a Purse with some Guineas, in order to be delivered to that Person, and which has been done accordingly.

The Landau being now advanced to the Place of Execution, his Lordship alighted from it, and ascended upon the Scaffold, which was covered with black Bays, with the same Composure and Fortitude of Mind he had enjoyed from the time he left the Tower; WHERE, after a short Stay, Mr. *Humphries* asked his Lordship, if he chose to say Prayers? which he declined; but upon his asking him, "*if he did not choose to join with him in the LORD'S-PRAYER?*" he readily answered, "*he would, for he always thought it a very fine Prayer;*" upon which they knelt down together upon two Cushions, covered with black Bays, and his Lordship with an audible Voice very devoutly repeated the LORD'S-PRAYER, and afterwards with great Energy, the following Ejaculation, "O GOD FOR-
" GIVE ME ALL MY ERRORS,—PARDON ALL MY SINS."

His Lordship then rising, took his Leave of the Sheriffs and the Chaplain; and after thanking them for their many Civilities, he presented his Watch to Mr. Sheriff *Vaillant*, which he desired his Acceptance of; and signified his Desire, *that his Body might be buried at BREDEN or STANTON in LEICESTERSHIRE.*

His Lordship then called for the Executioner, who immediately came to him, and asked him Forgiveness; upon which his Lordship said, "*I freely forgive you, as I do all Mankind, and hope myself to be forgiven.*"—He then intended to give the Executioner five Guineas, but, by Mistake, giving it into the Hands of the Executioner's Assistant, an unreasonable Dispute ensued between those unthinking Wretches, which Mr. Sheriff *Vaillant* instantly silenced.

The Executioner then proceeded to do his Duty, to which his Lordship, with great Resignation, submitted.—His Neckcloth being taken off, a white Cap, which his Lordship had brought in his Pocket, being put upon his Head, his Arms secured by a black Sash from incommoding him-

himself, and the Cord put round his Neck, he advanced by three Steps upon an Elevation in the Middle of the Scaffold, where part of the Floor had been raised about eighteen Inches higher than the rest; and standing under the Cross-beam which went over it, covered with black bays, he asked the Executioner, "*Am I right?*"——Then the Cap was drawn over his Face:—*and, then!*—upon a Signal given by the Sheriff (for his Lordship, upon being before asked, declined to give one himself) that Part, upon which he stood, instantly sunk down from beneath his Feet, and left him entirely suspended; but not * having sunk down so low as was designed, it was immediately pressed down, and levelled with the rest of the Floor.

For a few Seconds his Lordship made some Struggles against the Attacks of Death, but was soon eased of all Pain by the Pressure of the Executioner.

From the time of his Lordship's ascending upon the Scaffold, until his Execution, was about *eight Minutes*; during which his Countenance did not change, nor his Tongue falter:—The Prospect of Death did not at all shake the Composure of his Mind.

Whatever were his Lordship's Failings, his Behaviour in these his last Moments, which created a most awful and respectful Silence amidst the numberless Spectators, cannot but make a sensible Impression upon every humane Breast.

The accustomed Time of one Hour being past, the Coffin was raised up, with the greater Decency to receive the Body, and being deposited in the Hearse, was conveyed by the Sheriffs, with the same Procession, to *Surgeons-Hall* †, to undergo the Remainder of the Sentence.—Which being

* *It having been reported, that by Means of this Accident, his Lordship stood for some time on tip-toe; this is mentioned in so particular a Manner, in order to obviate that mistaken Report.*

† The Statute made in the 25th Year of his present Majesty's Reign for preventing the Crime of Murder, enacts, "That the Body of every Person convicted of Murder shall, if such Conviction and Execution shall be in the County of MIDDLESEX, or within the City of LONDON, or the Liberties thereof, be immediately conveyed by the Sheriff or Sheriffs,

[11]

being done, the Body was last *Thursday* Evening delivered to his Friends for Interment.

“ Sheriffs, his or their Deputy or Deputies, and his or their Officers, to the Hall of the
“ Surgeons Company, or such other Place as the said Company shall appoint for this Pur-
“ pose, and be delivered to such Person as the said Company shall depute or appoint, who
“ shall give to the Sheriff or Sheriffs, his or their Deputy or Deputies, a Receipt for the
“ same ; and the Body so delivered to the said Company of Surgeons, shall be dissected and
“ anatomized by the said Surgeons, or such Persons as they shall appoint for that Purpose ;
“ and that in no case the Body shall be suffered to be buried, unless after such Body shall have
“ been dissected and anatomized.”

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F I N I S.



being done, the Body was laid Thursday Evening delivered to his Friends
for Interment.

Shall, his or their Deputy or Depositor, and his or their Officer, to the Hall of the
Said Company or their other Place as the said Company shall appoint for the
said purpose, and be delivered to such Person as the said Company shall appoint or appoint who
shall give to the Sheriff or Sheriff, his or their Deputy or Depositor, a Receipt for the
same; and the Body so delivered to the said Company or Sheriff, shall be collected and
maintained by the said Sheriff or Sheriff, his or their Deputy or Depositor, for the purpose
and that in case the Body shall be refused to be buried, upon which Body shall have
been directed and examined.

T. 1. W. 1. 2.



